



The American Legion
Third District
Nathan Olson
District Adjutant

Helping Veterans Connect

We Are on the web!
www.mnthunderingthird.org

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 3 rd District Family Gathering 10:00 – 2:00 pm New Germany
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4



Volume 11 Issue 2

The Commanders Corner

Hello Thundering Third. Over the last month I have attended a National Membership training, National Convention, a post meeting, and answered many calls. My commander's project is helping veterans with their oral care. There are 2 dental clinics set up for the next couple months. If your post is willing to donate, or if you know a veteran in need, let me know so we can help them get their much-needed dental care.

Over the last month, I have heard stories from post all over the nation some struggling and some thriving and what they are doing to continue to keep their posts going. I have found hope in the words of our fellow Legion family members. Strengthening hope that together, we can keep the American Legion strong, through the continued mentorship's, friendships and camaraderie.

Amy Larsen
3rd District Commander

The Chaplains Corner

No Update This Month.

Membership Update

Happy Labor Day!
Summer is coming to an end. Time to get out check on the veterans, neighbors, members who we have not seen for a while or who have not renewed this year. I am expecting all

posts in the Thundering Third to reach or exceed 100% this year. The District Vice commanders have been given a list of 900 Legion member that live in our District. They have joined The American Legion through National “DMS” Direct Membership Solicitation. Also called 1982 in our department. You have members waiting to be engaged in a post. Reach out to them from this list. Make them feel welcome and part of something special. If they transfer to your post make sure you keep them updated on post activities and meetings. Do not make them an officer till they are ready. If they Do not want to transfer to your post tell them we have a At large post in the District Post 3333. Forward their information to me. If the post Commanders or Membership Directors have not received this list yet, reach out to your District Vice Commanders or District Commander. It is important to get them to transfer. Any Post that needs help with membership renewals or transfers, please contact me.

Joe Bares 952-686-3311 or jebares@yahoo.com.

This year I am hoping every Post has an open house and showcases what great things your Post is doing in your community.

Ideas for Post meetings: I will Highlight these on future Newsletters.

- Bring a Buddy” Drives
- Host a few events a year where members are asked to bring one non-member friend. Offer small incentives for both if the friend joins.
- Younger Veteran Focus Groups
- Create a task force of younger veterans (under 45) to identify what’s missing for their demographic—and let them implement changes.
- Loyalty Rewards Program
- Consider a point-based system: attending meetings, volunteering, bringing a friend = points. Points can be redeemed for Legion swag, gift cards, etc.
- Purpose-Driven Projects
- Create specific missions—like community cleanups, veteran mentorship, or youth programs—that give members meaningful ways to stay involved.
- Legacy Stories Campaign
- Feature stories of current members in newsletters, social media, and meetings.
- Emphasize how service and membership changed their lives.
- People stay when they feel part of a larger story.

The National and Department both have great web sites for resources of manuals and training. Mylegion.org legion.org and mnlegion.org.

I can help you find what training you are looking for. To help train your post members or yourself to be great legionnaires.

Dan Wiley the New National Commander Theme this year is Better Together.

Department Commander Linda Dvorak Theme is Back to the Basics.

District Commander Amy Larsen Theme Helping Veterans Connect

Department Of Minnesota Membership Director
Joe Bares

SAL UPDATE

No update this month

Calendar of Events

Sep. 5-7	Camp O Ree	Legionville
Sep 28	District Family Gathering	New Germany MN
Oct 25-26	Fall Conference	St Cloud, MN

Position Endorsements

Post 494 endorses Cindy Yanchury for the position of Department of Minnesota Chaplain for 2026-2027.

Post 95 endorses Jim Entinger for the position of Third District Commander for 2026-2027.

What's Happening in the District

Here are some pictures from the Woodbury Days fair and parade this past weekend.

Legion Post 501 members Teresa Skinner, Tim Crear, and Stacy Ferguson having some fun at Woodbury Days.



American Legion Woodbury Post 501 & VFW Post 9024 getting the joint float ready for the Woodbury Days parade.



Always Remember to check out additional events and happenings on our website:

[Home | American Legion MN Thundering Third District](#)

Also Included is a link to the American Legion Department website:

[The American Legion Department of Minnesota – Veterans strengthening America](#)

Here are your new Third District Officers for 2025-2026.

Position	Name Email Address	Home Phone Cell Phone	Home Post
Commander	Amy Larsen AmyLarsenLegion@gmail.com	612-306-4438(M)	586
Adjutant	Nate Olson nocanby@gmail.com	612-804-6117 (M)	45
Membership Director	Joe Bares jebares@yahoo.com	952-686-3311(M)	3
Vice Commanders	Mark Doble m.doble4@live.com	952-393-7609(M)	594
	James Entinger (Area 2) jentinger@yahoo.com	920-328-7512 (M)	95
	Wayne Beierman (Area 3) beierman66@gmail.com	651-497-0971(M)	594
	Ross Lacourt (Area 4) rlacourt@gmail.com	760-586-5558(M)	54
	Marissa Lacourt (Area 5) marissa.lacourt@gmail.com	760-586-5136 (M)	54
Finance Officer	Barrett Kirchenwitz bm6712@yahoo.com	612-998-5033	594
Judge Advocate	Don Pankake pankake@hutchtel.net	320-587-7000(H) 612-280-7320(M)	96
Chaplain	Cindy Yanchury cindy.yanchury@gmail.com	651-261-1594	594
Historian	Ashley Venburg wsskat@gmail.com	651-283-2354	225
Sgt-at Arms	Neil Hoadley airrachet@gmail.com	651-703-6304	47
Past National Cmdr	Dan Ludwig damkludwig@gmail.com	651-253-9086 (M)	54
Past Third District Commander	Joe Tappainer jtappainer@frontier.com	612-770-5124 (M)	1776

District and/or Department Positions

Have you ever thought about getting more involved at the District or even the Department Level of the American Legion? If so, please talk to Mark Dvorak, Pat Logan, Don Skow, Don Pankake or Duane Anderson.

They can help you understand the various positions and how to move to the next level of leadership.